

THE RAQUETTEUR AND TREES
(In Quebec a raquetteur is a traveler on snow-shoes)

Tanya Beyer

The Raquetteur he touched the country—
Mobbed by wildwood,
Steeped in snowpack,
Hiding aid about the shadows—
Free for raquetteurs.

Ash youngsters, chosen, curved and fastened,
Webbed with leather
Fed from Alder,
Made the Raquetteur his hare's-feet—
Buoyant over leagues.

The Paper Birch wore clever fabric;
Posing kindly
White-bark tinder
Which the Raquetteur by sunset
Peeled to serve a flame.

And Balsam stood in windless woods-nooks,
Rife with branches
Lapped and latticed
This as tent and rippling bough-bed
Lodged the Raquetteur.

In noiseless hosts the Trees made offers—
Humble hundreds
For most cravings.
Thus the Raquetteur in comfort
Gave salute to Trees.

